

Project IOWA Brochure

The purpose of Project IOWA is to develop a long term, community generated and sustained initiative to equip unemployed and under employed central Iowans with skills necessary to advance to career track, high wage jobs with full benefits.

Overview of Training

Project IOWA prepares participants for the real world jobs of today's economy. The training provided combines the "hard" skill training that employers require with the "soft" skill development that is needed for participants to experience long term success as employees. This training involves significant commitments of time, dedication and skill from the participants. It works when the participants graduate with confidence, character and skills to be great employees.

An Alternative Approach to Workforce Training

Project IOWA was formed utilizing a best practice model called Project Quest based in San Antonio, Texas. The cornerstone to this approach is combining relevant technical training (developed and taught by industry leaders) and employment skills through classes taught concurrently. The employment skills taught through the Vision, Initiative and Perseverance (V.I.P.) classes also provide coaching, wrap around services and ongoing support after placement.

Project IOWA is currently focused on training in the Healthcare and Advanced Manufacturing Sectors. Training is based on employer needs. Currently, Project IOWA is training Certified Production Technicians and welders for the Advanced Manufacturing employers and Certified Nursing Assistants and Phlebotomist for Healthcare.

What Project IOWA Offers

- *Admission into an intensive training program to equip participants with the skills and certificates needed to begin a career in select employment sectors.
- *Training in a certificate program at no cost. Even the materials to participate are covered. Attendance, participation and dedication are mandatory.
- *Community wrap around support and mentoring through regular classes and one-on-one coaching.
- *The opportunity to apply and interview for committed jobs with employer partners upon completion of training.

Interested in Becoming a Participant

In Des Moines and Ames informational meetings are held monthly to begin the process.

Employee Partners

Project IOWA partners have committed to participate in developing an initiative that nurtures, promotes and trains valuable employees who seek careers in growing industries in Central Iowa. Project IOWA currently partners with the following organizations:

- Mercy Medical Center

- Vermeer Corporation
- ALMACO
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Mercy College
- Central City Development Corporation
- Bridgestone
- Sauer Danfoss
- General Mills
- Kreg Tools
- Mary Greeley Hospital

In the calendar year of 2012 Project IOWA trained 57 individuals

Project IOWA's goal for 2013 is 90 individuals

Project IOWA's goal for 2014 130 individuals

Funding provided by the state will enable us to train more individuals and help provide the wrap around services necessary for successful employment.